

## January 2010

### VT Quarterly Report as of 12/31/2009

#### State Broadband Data & Development Grant Program Quarterly Report Content

Directions: Please answer all questions completely. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call your assigned Federal Program Officer. Please note that each grantee's quarterly report will be made publicly available on the broadband mapping section of [www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov).

#### Broadband Mapping:

1. Describe progress made against goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved project plan. In regard to these goals, please provide the specific information listed below.
  - A. Broadband Provider Data:
    - a. Please provide the name of each broadband provider that you have identified as providing service in your state. (See attached spreadsheet.)
    - b. For each such provider, provide the following information on the attached spreadsheet:
      - i. Have you contacted the provider to provide data?
      - ii. Have you reached agreement for data sharing (signed NDA or other agreement)?
      - iii. Has the provider supplied you with a complete set of data?
      - iv. Have you completed validation of these data sets?
    - c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate that these providers may refuse to participate in this project? If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers.

***VT Response** - Yes, some challenges have been encountered, although provider participation as a community is showing promise. Some smaller providers responded to our data request with the reply that they didn't have the time or resources available to fulfill our data request. In those cases we are trying to provide them with materials that they can fill out or draw on by hand to delineate their coverage areas. At least one small provider is refusing for reasons of his own. With the mid-sized and large (national) providers the primary issue is resolution of the NDA. Many of the mid-sized providers are signing the NDA provided by our team with very little problem. Resolution of the NDA appears to be a larger issue for the large (National) providers. Some want us to use their NDA.*

- B. If you are additionally collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc.), please describe both your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future.

**VT Response** – Yes, we are collecting information from other means. Data for Wireless Tower Facilities' site location information will be extracted from the required reporting data for VT Act 250 Data in the state. Data will also be extracted from other public repositories. One of our contractors will be doing the data mining when they come on board starting in early January.

C. Verification Activities:

- a. Please name the verification activities you plan to implement.

**VT Response** – The VT Broadband Mapping Team will be performing verification by survey (on-line and phone), drive testing, and a minimal amount of field verification.

- b. If you have begun verification activities, please describe the status of these activities. If not, what is your projected timeline for beginning and completing activities?

**VT Response** – Verification by survey has already begun; our Dept of Public Service has completed their 2009 Telephone Survey. The responses are being analyzed at this time and the data is also being forwarded to be included in the much larger Center for Rural Studies survey and analysis work that will be taking place in Jan-Feb timeframe.

D. Staffing:

- a. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project? (Use the same figure that you utilized in your ARRA report). (See attached spreadsheet.)
- b. Is the project currently fully staffed? If not, please describe the expected dates that you expect to hire the staff positions named above. Please also describe how any lack of staffing will impact the project's timeline. (See attached spreadsheet and further clarification below.)

**VT Response** – The project is not fully staffed at this time. Several tasks were designated in our proposal to be done by sub-contractors that have yet to be brought under contract. RFPs have been awarded or are in development for all of the necessary tasks. The first RFP has been released and a contractor has been selected. Final contract negotiation will be completed within a week.

- c. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project? (See attached spreadsheet.)
- d. Please provide the title and percentage of FTE for each job. (See attached spreadsheet.)
- e. Subcontracts: If you plan to subcontract any portion of your work, please provide the following information on the attached spreadsheet for each subcontract greater than \$25,000. (See attached spreadsheet.)

- i. Purpose of the subcontract.
- ii. Name of Vendor (enter "Not Selected" if no vendor has been selected)
- iii. Has an RFP been released (if applicable)? (Y, N, NA) If so, when?
- iv. Has the project team executed a contract with the selected vendor? (Y,N) If so, please provide:
  - a. Start/end dates of contract
  - b. Contract value
    - i. Federal Portion
    - ii. In-kind Portion

E. Please describe the status of any project milestone that has not been included in the information provided above.

***VT Response - None***

F. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing.

***VT Response - Getting agreements on the NDAs is the most challenging obstacle at this time. Designating a single point of contact within the organization for all NDA discussions has helped. This person is also the sole designated POC (liaison) for direct contact with the providers and that has helped to reduce confusion about our program in the state. It also enables us to provide a consistent message.***

2. Funding:

- a. How much federal grant funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter, and how much funding remains? *(See attached spreadsheet.)*
- b. How much of the matching funds have been expended as of the end of the last quarter, and how much funding remains? *(See attached spreadsheet.)*
- c. For any funds expended for a subcontract, please identify the name of the subcontractor and the amount. An example is provided in the template. *(See attached spreadsheet.)*
- d. Hardware/Software: Has the project team purchased the software/hardware described in the application? If so, please list. Please note any hardware/software that has not yet been purchased and explain why it has not been purchased.

***VT Response – The hardware has not been purchased yet, but it will be purchased in the next quarter. The VT Broadband Mapping Team is still making decisions about our web strategy etc. and it is not yet clear as to whether we will be purchasing the software identified in our proposal. That decision will be made within the design discussions that will take place with the selected website development contractor.***

- e. Data Sets: Has the project team purchased the data sets described in the application? If so, please list. Please note any data set that has not yet been purchased and explain why it has not been purchased.

**VT Response** – *The Vermont Project team was not planning on purchasing any data in our proposal and that plan has not changed, so far.*

3. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your broadband mapping project.

**VT Response-** *This project has been slow to start in VT even though we have had existing data relationships with many of the Providers. Several VT Providers became concerned about releasing their data to NTIA even though they had been providing the data to our Dept. of Public Service for years. The involvement with the Federal Govt. has changed some Providers perspectives about releasing their data.*

*In general the project has been slower to get started than I had expected due to;*

- *General Distrust of the Providers*
- *The recent Holiday period (Thanksgiving- Chanukah-Christmas- New Years)*
- *Design and creation of the Data Model and the Database prior to receiving the data and making the data requests.*
- *Coordinating Contract and RFP development for all of the potential Partners*

#### **Broadband Planning:**

##### **Vermont Did Not Request Funding for Broadband Planning**

1. If the project received funding for broadband planning, please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved project plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity/milestone that you plan to complete and your current status. (Answer below.)
2. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing. (Answer below.)
3. Does the project team anticipate any changes to the current project plan for broadband planning? If so, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the project plan before they can be implemented. (Answer below.)
4. Funding:
  - a. How much grant funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter, and how much funding remains? (Use attached spreadsheet.)

- b. How much of the matching funds have been expended as of the end of the last quarter, and how much funding remains? (Use attached spreadsheet.)
  - c. For any funds expended for a subcontract, please identify the name of the subcontractor and the amount. An example is provided in the template. (Use attached spreadsheet.)
- 5. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your broadband planning project. (Answer below.)